

KFOR forces, as for KFOR generally, maintaining a safe and secure environment remains the primary military task. United States forces conduct security patrols in urban areas and in the countryside throughout their sector. Approximately 79 percent of KFOR soldiers are dedicated to patrolling, manning checkpoints, and mounting border and boundary patrols. The KFOR forces operate under NATO command and control and rules of engagement.

The UNMIK continues to make progress in establishing the necessary structures for provisional democratic self-government in Kosovo, including through the recent promulgation of the Constitutional Framework for Provisional Self Government and preparations for Kosovo-wide elections. The KFOR coordinates with and supports UNMIK at most levels, and is represented at the Kosovo Transitional Council and the Joint Civil Commissions. Also, KFOR support includes providing a security presence in towns, villages, and the countryside, and organizing checkpoints and patrols in key areas of Kosovo to provide security, protect minorities, resolve disputes, and help instill in the community a feeling of confidence. Finally, KFOR is supporting, within its means and capabilities, the provision of humanitarian relief, public safety and order, and the maintenance of essential civic works resources.

NATO continues formally to review KFOR's mission at 6-month intervals. The conclusions reached as a result of the ongoing 6-month review, which is scheduled to be completed by late May, will be presented to the NATO foreign and defense ministers' meeting, which will be held in late May and early June. These reviews provide a basis for assessing current force levels, future requirements, force structure, force reductions, and the eventual withdrawal of KFOR. The KFOR has transferred responsibility for its public safety and policing responsibilities to the UNMIK international and local police forces in every area except Kosovska Mitrovica and Pec.

The continued deployment of U.S. forces has been undertaken pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and

Chief Executive. I appreciate the continued support of the Congress in these actions.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Strom Thurmond, President pro tempore of the Senate.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

May 13

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC, from Camp David, MD.

May 14

In the morning, the President traveled to Philadelphia, PA, where he met with Cardinal Anthony Bevilacqua.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate R. Barrie Walkley to be Ambassador to Guinea.

The President announced his intention to nominate Peter W. Rodman to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs.

May 15

The President announced his intention to nominate Marvin R. Sambur to be Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Research, and Development.

May 16

The President announced his intention to nominate P.H. Johnson to be Federal Co-chairperson of the Delta Regional Authority.

The President announced his intention to nominate Joseph M. DeThomas to be Ambassador to Estonia.

The President announced his intention to nominate Theodore H. Kattouf to be Ambassador to Syria.

The President announced his intention to nominate Maureen Quinn to be Ambassador to Qatar.

The President announced his intention to nominate Arlene Render to be Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire.

The President announced his intention to nominate Marcelle Wahba to be Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates.

The President designated John E. Higgins to be Acting General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board.

The President designated Peter J. Hurtgen to be Chairman of the National Labor Relations Board.

The President declared a major disaster in Minnesota and order Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe winter storms, flooding, and tornadoes beginning March 23 and continuing.

The President declared a major disaster in Nebraska and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe winter storms, flooding, and tornadoes on April 10–23.

The President declared a major disaster in Maine and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe winter storms and flooding on March 5–31.

The President declared a major disaster in Puerto Rico and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, and mudslides beginning on May 6 and continuing.

May 17

In the morning, the President traveled to St. Paul, MN, and in the afternoon, he traveled to Nevada, IA.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as Governors on the Board of Governors of the American National Red Cross: David Thomas McLaughlin, Anthony Joseph Principi, Donald Louis Evans, Richard Lee Armitage,

Tommy G. Thompson, Roderick R. Paige, Joe M. Allbaugh, and Gen. Henry H. Shelton.

The President declared a major disaster in Colorado and order Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe winter storms on April 11–22.

The President declared a major disaster in South Dakota and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe winter storms, flooding, and ice jams on March 1–April 30.

May 18

In the morning, the President traveled to Conestoga, PA, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC, where he attended a Cuban Independence Day event in the East Room at the White House.

The President announced his intention to nominate R. Nicholas Burns to be the U.S. Permanent Representative to the Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization with the rank of Ambassador.

The President designated Frank D. Yturria to be Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation.

The President designated Patricia Hill Williams to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation.

The White House announced that the President will visit Slovenia in June.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted May 14

Paul Vincent Kelly, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), vice Barbara Mills Larkin.